

2009 Report from CAM representative on the Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System (CPSS)

The Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System (CPSS) is a national health surveillance program of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The CPSS is delivered by the Maternal and Infant Health Section of PHAC, and its work is carried out in collaboration with health care professionals, researchers, public health representatives and voluntary and consumer organizations. The mission of the CPSS is to contribute to improved health for pregnant women, mothers and infants in Canada.

The CPSS normally meets twice a year (April and October). The meetings in October 2008 were cancelled, so I have only attended one set of meetings in the past year. These meetings were held from April 22nd -24th, 2009 in Ottawa. As CAM's representative, I participate in all of the three study groups of the CPSS (Maternal Health, Fetal & Infant Health, and Maternity Experiences) as well as in the steering committee. During one of the April '09 sessions, I provided a basic report from CAM (see attached report, which incorporated information from CAM fact sheets). The CPSS steering committee meeting during the April 2009 meetings was a strategic planning workshop. The ideas generated in this session have resulted in some changes to the CPSS structure, but the full details of these changes have not yet been communicated to the representatives to the CPSS (I expect I will find out more about these details in the upcoming meetings in October, which are to be held in Gatineau QC). One significant change is that the Maternity Experiences Study Group is being disbanded, and work on any issues related to this theme will be carried out by the remaining study groups. It also appears that the steering committee meetings will involve a much smaller group of people (possibly just the chairs of the study groups and the chairs of the CPSS) and will focus on setting the work priorities for the Maternal and Infant Health Section staff. Input from the broad range of representatives to the CPSS will be gathered during the study group meetings.

Highlights of the work of the CPSS over the past year include the release of the 2008 Canadian Perinatal Health Report, and the release of the Canadian Maternity Experiences Survey. The latter report was especially well disseminated to midwives, and its findings included high levels of satisfaction among women who were cared for by midwives.

Submitted by Liz Darling, RM